

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;

a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size; and

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein said recorder includes a searcher for searching unit recording zones each of which is in a vacant state, a writer for writing the compressed image signals into the unit recording zones discovered by said searcher, and a creator for creating link information indicating a link state of the unit recording zones in which the compressed image signals are written.

Claim 3 (Original): An image recording apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed image signals;

an acceptor for accepting a restoring instruction of said link information; and
a restorer for restoring said link information on the basis of said identifying number in
accepting said restoring instruction.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ which
records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit
recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a
second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size; and
a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the
compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein $N = 1$ is true, and said recorder brings a
forefront of each of the compressed image signals into being coincident with a forefront of each
of the unit recording zones.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ which
records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit
recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;
a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a
second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size; and

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein $N \geq 2$ is true, and said recorder includes a detector for detecting a difference between each size of the compressed image signals and the second size, and a former for forming an interval equivalent to the difference between a compressed image signal to be recorded this time and a compressed image signal to be recorded next time in the same unit recording zone.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;

a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size; and

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein said compressor repeatedly carries out a compression process up to each size of the compressed image signals being equal to or smaller than $1/N$ of the first size.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ which records image signals in a compressed state into a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed, comprising:

an inputter for inputting the image signals;

a compressor for compressing each of the image signals inputted by said inputter into a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : integer) of the first size; and

a recorder for respectively recording compressed image signals generated by the compressor into the unit recording zones, wherein each of the image signals is a still image, and said compressor performs a compression process in accordance with a JPEG format.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9,~~
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein the plurality of still images represents a motion image.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each
of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which
is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the
plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality
of unit recording zones, further comprising:

an assigner for assigning a successive identifying number to each of the compressed still
images created by said compressor; and

a restorer for restoring the link based on the identifying numbers assigned by said
assigner at a time of accepting a restoring instruction in a state of the link destroyed.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each
of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which
is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein the N is 1, and said recorder brings a forefront of the compressed still image into being coincident with a forefront of the unit recording zone.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,
comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N: positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein the N is an integer more than 1, and said recorder includes a detector for detecting a difference between each size of the compressed still images and the second size, and an interval former for forming an interval equivalent to the difference between a compressed still image to be recorded this time and a compressed still image to be recorded next time in the same unit recording zone.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,

comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein said compressor repeatedly carries out a compression process up to a size of the compressed still image being equal to or smaller than $1/N$ of the first size.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An image recording apparatus ~~according to claim 9~~,

comprising:

a holder for holding a recording medium on which a plurality of unit recording zones each of which has a first size are formed;

a compressor for compressing each of a plurality of still images up to a second size which is equal to or smaller than $1/N$ (N : positive integer) of the first size;

a recorder for recording compressed still images created by said compressor into the plurality of unit recording zones at a rate of N images per zone; and

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a link former for forming a link between recorded unit recording zones out of the plurality of unit recording zones, wherein said compressor carries out a compression process in accordance with a JPEG format.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)